

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
 - an instrument body;
 - a striker for striking the instrument body to produce a sound; and
 - a tether connecting the striker to the instrument body;wherein the tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location, ~~and an opposite end connected to the striker at a striker attachment location,~~ and an intermediate portion extending loosely between the ends of the tether, the striker attachment location being fixed in relation to and spaced inwardly ~~from the ends of the striker;~~ and ~~wherein the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from the ends of the striker by at least one fifth the length of the striker.~~
2. (cancelled)
3. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 1, wherein the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from the ends of the striker by at least one fourth the length of the striker.
4. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 3, wherein the striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.
5. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
 - an instrument body;
 - ~~a striker~~ two strikers for striking the instrument body to produce a sound;and
 - ~~a tether~~ two tethers respectively connecting the ~~striker~~ strikers to the instrument body;wherein ~~the~~ each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location, and an opposite end connected to the respective

striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the ends of the striker;

~~wherein the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from the ends of the~~ respective striker by at least one fourth the length of the striker;

wherein ~~the~~ each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion; and

~~wherein two said strikers and tethers are provided, and the respective~~ body attachment locations are located on the same side of the instrument body.

6. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 5, wherein the instrument body has a drumming surface surrounded by a peripheral wall, and the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the respective body attachment location and the center of the drumming surface.
7. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 6, wherein the body attachment locations are located on the peripheral wall at the same or about the same location.
8. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 7, wherein the instrument body has the shape of an animal.
9. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 8, wherein the animal shape is that of a turtle and the drumming surface forms at least a part of the turtle's shell.
10. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 9, wherein the combined length of the tethers and any spacing between the body attachment locations is no greater than about 14 inches.

11. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
an instrument body having a drumming surface;
a striker for striking the ~~instrument body~~ drumming surface to produce a sound; and
a tether connecting the striker to the instrument body;
wherein the tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, ~~and an opposite end connected to the striker at a striker attachment location, and an intermediate portion extending loosely between the ends of the tether,~~ the striker attachment location being fixed in relation to and spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface.
12. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
an instrument body having a drumming surface;
~~a striker~~ two strikers for striking the ~~instrument body~~ drumming surface to produce a sound; and
~~a tether~~ two tethers respectively connecting the ~~striker~~ strikers to the instrument body;
wherein ~~the~~ each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface; and
wherein ~~two said strikers and tethers are provided, and~~ the combined length of the tethers and any spacing between the body attachment locations is no greater than about 14 inches.
13. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 12, wherein each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.

14. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 12, wherein the body attachment locations are located on the same side of the instrument body.
15. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
an instrument body having a drumming surface;
~~a striker~~ two strikers for striking the instrument body drumming surface to produce a sound; and
~~a tether~~ two tethers respectively connecting the ~~striker~~ strikers to the instrument body;
wherein ~~the~~ each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface; and
wherein ~~two said strikers and tethers are provided,~~ and the body attachment locations are located at the same or about the same location.
16. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 11, wherein the instrument body has the shape of an animal.
17. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 16, wherein the animal shape is that of a turtle and the drumming surface forms at least a part of the turtle's shell.
18. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.
19. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
an instrument body having a drumming surface;

~~a striker~~ two strikers for striking the instrument body drumming surface to produce a sound; and

~~a tether~~ two tethers respectively connecting the ~~striker~~ strikers to the instrument body;

wherein ~~the~~ each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface;

wherein ~~the~~ each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion; and

wherein ~~two said strikers and tethers are provided, and~~ the body attachment locations are located at the same or about the same location.

20. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 11, wherein the instrument body is in the form of at least one of an animal [;] and a drum ~~and a xylophone~~.

21. (currently amended) A toy, comprising:

a main unit;

an implement for use with the main unit; and

a tether connecting the implement to the main unit, the tether having one end connected to the main unit at a respective main unit attachment location, ~~and~~ an opposite end connected to the implement at an implement attachment location, and an intermediate portion extending loosely between the ends of the tether, and the implement attachment location being fixed in relation to and spaced inwardly from the ends of the implement by at least one fifth the length of the implement, thereby to allow a shorter tether to be used while still allowing the implement to be used without difficulty.

22. (currently amended) A toy, comprising:
- a main unit having a play area with a center;
 - an implement manipulable by a child in relation to the play area of the main unit; and
 - a tether connecting the implement to the main unit;
- wherein the tether has one end connected to the implement at a main unit attachment location, ~~and an opposite end connected to the implement at an implement attachment location, and an intermediate portion extending loosely between the ends of the tether,~~ the implement attachment location being fixed in relation to and spaced inwardly from a non-handle end of the implement by a distance about equal the distance between the main unit attachment location and the center of the play area.
23. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
- an instrument body;
 - ~~a striker~~ two strikers for striking the instrument body to produce a sound;
- and
- ~~a tether~~ two tethers respectively connecting the ~~striker~~ strikers to the instrument body;
- wherein ~~the~~ each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location, and an opposite end connected to the respective ~~striker~~ at a striker attachment location from which the tether extends away from the respective striker, the ~~striker attachment location~~ being spaced inwardly from the ends of the respective ~~striker~~; and
- ~~wherein two said strikers and tethers are provided, and the respective body attachment locations are located on the same side of the instrument body.~~
24. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
- an instrument body having a drumming surface;
 - ~~a striker~~ two strikers for striking the ~~instrument body~~ drumming surface to produce a sound; and

~~a tether~~ two tethers respectively connecting the ~~striker~~ strickers to the instrument body;

wherein ~~the~~ each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface; and

~~wherein two said strikers and tethers are provided, and~~ the body attachment locations are located at the same or about the same location.

25. (currently amended) A toy comprising:

a main unit having a play area with a center;

~~an implement~~ two implements manipulable by a child in relation to the play area of the main unit; and

~~a tether~~ two tethers respectively connecting the ~~implement~~ implements to the main unit;

wherein ~~the~~ each tether has one end connected to the main unit at a main unit attachment location, ~~and~~ an opposite end connected to the respective implement at an implement attachment location from which the tether extends away from the respective implement, and an intermediate portion extending loosely between the ends of the implement, the implement attachment location being spaced inwardly from the ends of the respective implement; and

~~wherein two said implements and tethers are provided, and~~ the respective main unit attachment locations are located on the same side of the main unit.